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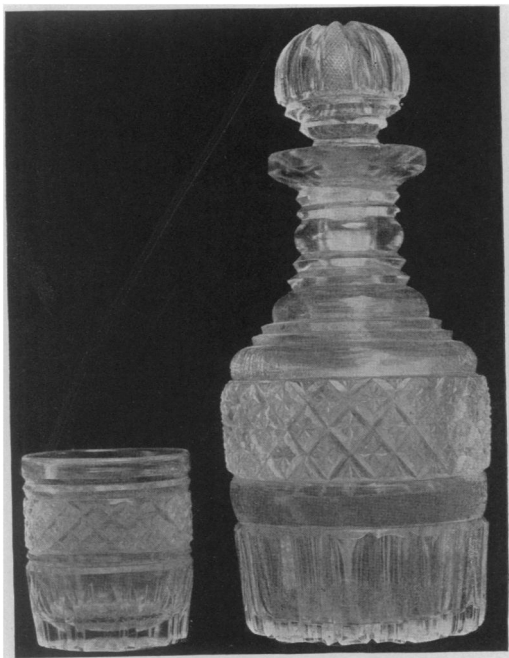
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OLD AMERICAN CUT GLASS

On account of the difficulty in identifying particular patterns of old cut glass, it is next to impossible to recognize pieces of American manufacture unless they can be traced directly to their sources. The Museum has recently come into possession of some exceedingly interesting specimens, however,



CUT GLASS DECANTER AND TUMBLER
Made in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1828

which are fully authenticated. From Mr. Craig D. Ritchie and Miss Henrietta Ritchie a most interesting collection has been received, including a large punch bowl, decanters, candlesticks, and tall champagne and wine glasses, which were manufactured by John and Craig Ritchie at Ritchietown, now part of the City of Wheeling, in the State of West Virginia, about the year 1835. Considering the early period of its production this glass is of good color and excellent quality, the cuttings are heavy and the patterns of which there are several, are quaint and interesting. The punch bowl is here shown.

From Miss Henrietta Graff the Museum has also received some American cut glass, consisting of decanter, wine glasses, tumblers and water pitcher. These are of even earlier manufacture and are interesting from a historical

standpoint. The father of the donor, Mr. Frederic Graff, a noted Philadelphia engineer in the early part of the nineteenth century, had furnished the City of Pittsburgh with valuable information on the subject of a municipal water system. On the 24th of December, 1827, resolutions were passed by the Select and Common Councils of Pittsburgh extending the thanks of the city to Mr. Graff, and at the same time an order was issued for a service of cut glass to be manufactured for him in Pittsburgh. These pieces, now given to the Museum by Miss Graff, are a portion of the set, which was presented to her father on March 17, 1828. The pattern of these pieces is entirely different from those of the Virginia factory, and while the glass is of excellent quality it was made when the manufacture was in the experimental stage and the mechanical processes had not been entirely perfected. A peculiarity of this

glass is the presence of innumerable minute air bubbles ("seed") which in certain lights appear as a silvery sheen on the surface. This same effect, produced by too low a temperature in the melting, is to be observed in some of the old Swedish glassware, and while in reality an imperfection, the effect is not unpleasing.

Special attention will be given to completing the Museum collection of American glassware, which already is the largest and most important of its kind. The knowledge that the particular patterns of these recently acquired

pieces are American will undoubtedly be of great assistance in the recognition of other varieties of cut glass which originated in the numerous cutting shops of the United States early in the nineteenth century.



CUT GLASS PUNCH BOWL

Made by John and Craig Ritchie
Wheeling, W. Va., about 1835



NOTES

APPROPRIATION.—On account of the crowded condition of the Museum exhibits application was made, to City Councils, through the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, for an appropriation to be used in fitting up some of the unfinished apartments in the basement of Memorial Hall. It is with pleasure we are able to announce the securing of an appropriation of \$5000 for his purpose. The work of putting these apartments into condition for exhibition purposes will be commenced at an early day.

IMPORTANT ACCESSIONS.—From Miss Henrietta Graff the Museum has received a valuable collection of Greco-Roman pottery, Oriental and European silver jewelry, Pueblo Indian pottery, a carved and gilded modern French chair, marble statue of the Madonna and early American cut glass, the latter of which is described more fully on another page of this issue.

Mr. Craig D. Ritchie and Miss Henrietta Ritchie have presented a most interesting group of cut glass made at Wheeling, W. Va., by the uncle and father of the donors about 1835. The presentation of this most desirable collec-